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RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHHE #0112 0471314
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R 161314Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2987
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0184
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 1114
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 5498
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 0556
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0380
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 0066
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0188
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0075
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0108
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0174
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0367
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1379
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0353
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1855

UNCLAS HELSINKI 000112

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PARM](#) [AORC](#) [EIND](#) [OPCW](#) [CWC](#) [CBW](#) [IR](#) [FI](#)

SUBJECT: FINNISH RESPONSE - CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
(CWC) - SEEKING SUPPORT TO BLOCK IRAN BECOMING EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL CHAIR

REF: SECSTATE 17200

¶1. (U) PolChief delivered subject demarche Feb. 15 to Jani Raappana, Counselor for Chemical and Biological Disarmament in the MFA's Unit for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

¶2. (SBU) Although Finland has received no "official" word that Iran intends to put forward a candidate for the CWC chairmanship, Raappana said the GOF opposes Iran's occupying that position and shares our concerns. For now, he said, Finland hopes the CWC's Asia Group can sort out the matter internally without the involvement of the WEOG, and he welcomed US behind-the-scenes efforts to urge the Asians put forward a consensus candidate as an alternative to the Iranian.

¶3. (SBU) Finland has no official position yet as to what actions it would take if the Asia group cannot find consensus. However, Raappana said that the EU countries on the CWC would likely seek a unified position. He added that the Europe Group has split in the past on chemical weapons issues and suggested that if it cannot reach a unified position, Finland would be likely to join the group that would vote against Iran's bid.

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